

AN
ACT MADE
BY
THE ESTATES
OF
PARLIAMENT.

Conveened by His MAJESTIES
Ippciall Authority, and holden at *Edenburgh*
in *Scotland*, Anno 1641.

Declaring all Episcopall Governement, the
Civill places and Power of Kirk-men; the late Ser-
vice Booke, Booke of Cannons and Ordination;
the High-Commission: together with the Articles of
Perth, for the observation of Festivall dayes,
kneeling at the Communion, &c. to bee utterly
unlawfull, and still rejected, in that
Kirk and Kingdome.

Whereunto is added an Act appointing Parliaments
to be held every three yeares.

EDENBURG,
Printed by J. B. and now Printed at London
for J. W. I. 1641.

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ACT IV

THE PRINCE OF DENMARK

ACT IV

SCENE I. A Room in the Castle of Elsinore.

Enter Hamlet, Rosencrantz, and Guildenstern.

Hamlet.

What news of my father?

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ACT I.

*Anent the ratification of the Acts of the
Assembly.*

THe Estates of Parliament presently convened by his Majesties speciall authority, Ratifies, approves and perpetually confirms the Act of the Generall Assemblie holden at *Edinburgh* in the moneth of August last by-past, made upon the seventeenth day of the said moneth, and in the eight Session of the said assemblie, intituled, Anent the six causes of our by-gone evils; Whereof the tenour fellowes: The Kings Majestie having graciously declared, That it is His Royall will and pleasure, that all questions about Religion, and matters Ecclesiasticall, be determined by Assemblies of the Kirke, have also by publik Proclamation indicted this Free Nationall Assembly, for settling the present distractions of this Kirke, and for establishing of a perfect peace, against such divisions and disorders as have been sore displeasing to His Majesty, and grievous to all his good Subjects, And now His Majesties Commissioner, *John Earle of Traquhair*, instructed and authorized with a full Commisfion, being present and sitting in this Assembly, now fully convened, and orderly constitute in all the members thereof, according to

the Order of this Kirk : having at large declared his Majesties zeale to the reformed Religion, and His Royall care and tender affection to this Kirk, where His Majesty had both his birth and Baptisme, His great displeasure at the manifold distractions and divisions of this Kirk and Kingdome, and His desires to have all our wounds perfectly cured with a faire and fatherly hand; And although in the way approven by this Kirk, tryall hath bin taken in former Assemblies before, from the Kirk Regesters, to our full satisfaction, yet the Commissioners Grace making particular inquirie from the members of the Assembly, solemnly convened, concerning the reall and true causes of so many and great evils, at this time past, had so fore troubeled the peace of this Kirk and Kingdome, It was represented to His Majesties Commissioner by this Assembly, That beside many other, the main and most materiall causes were, First the pressing of this Kirk by the Prelats, with a Service-book or book of Common-prayer, without warrant or direction from the kirk, and conteining beside the popish frame thereof, divers popish errours ceremonies, and the seeds of manifold and grosse superstitions and idolatry; with a booke of Canons, without warrant or direction from the generall assembly, establishing a tyrannicall power over the Kirke, in the persons of the Bishops, and overthrowing the whole Discipline and Governement of the Kirke by Assemblies; with a Booke of Consecration and Ordination, without warrant of authority Civil or Ecclesiastical, appointing offices in Gods

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Gods house, which are not warranted by the word of God, and repugnant to the Discipline & Acts of our Kirk; and with the High Commission, erected without the consent of this Kirk, subverting the jurisdiction and ordinary Judicatories of this Kirk, and giving to persons meerly Ecclesiasticall, the power of both swords, and to persons meerly Civill, the power of the keyes and Kirk censures. A second cause was the Articles of *Perth. viz.* the observation of Festivall dayes, kneeling at the Communion, Confirmation, Administration of the Sacraments in private places, which were brought in by a null Assembly, and are contrary to the Confession of Faith, as it was meant and subscribed, *Anno 1580.* and diverse times since, and to the order and constitution of this Kirk. Thirdly, the change of the Government of the Kirk, from the Assemblies of the Kirk, to the persons of some Kirkmen, usurping priority and power over their brethren, by the way, and under the name of Episcopall Government, against the Confession of Faith 1580. against the order set downe in the Book of policy, and against the intention and constitution of this Kirk from the beginning. Fourthly, the civill places and power of Kirkmen, their sitting in Session, Councell, and Exchequer, their riding, sitting, and voycing in Parliament, and their sitting on the Bench as Justices of peace, which, according to the Constitutions of this Kirk, are incompatible with their spirituall function, lift them up above their brethren in worldly pompe, and doe tend to the hindrance of the Ministry. Fifthly, the keeping and authorizing corrupt Assemblies at

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Linlishgow 1606, 1608, at *Glasgow* 1610, at *Aberdene* 1616, at *S. Andrewes* 1617, at *Perth* 1618, which are null and unlawfull, as being called and constitute quite contrary to the order & constitutions of this Kirk, received and practised ever since the Reformation of Religion, and withall labouring to introduce Novations into this Kirk, against the Order and Religion established. A sixth cause is, the want of lawfull and free generall Assemblies, rightly constitute of Pastours, Doctours, and Elders, yearly or oftner *pro re nata*, according to the Liberty of this Kirk, expressed in the Book of policy, and acknowledged in the Act of Parliament 1592, after which, the whole Assembly, in one heart and voice, did declare, that these and such other, proceeding from the neglect and breach of the Nationall Covenant of this Kirk and Kingdome, made *Ann.* 1580. have beene indeed the true and maine causes of all our evils and distractions, and therefore ordaine, according to the Constitutions of the Generall Assemblies of this Kirk, and upon the grounds respective above specified, that the foresaid Service-Booke, Books of Canons and Ordination, and the High Commission, be still rejected, that the Articles of *Perth* be no more practised; that Episcopall government, the civill places and power of Kirkmen, be holden still as unlawfull in this Kirk; that the above-named pretended Assemblies at *Linlishgow* 1606, 1608, at *Glasgow* 1610, at *Aberdene* 1616, at *S. Andrewes* 1617, at *Perth* 1618, be hereafter accounted as null, and of none effect; and that for preservation of Religion, and preventing all such evils in time comming, Generall Assemblies

Assemblies rightly constitute, as the proper & competent Judge of all matters Ecclesiasticall, hereafter be kept yeerely, and oftner *pro re nata*, as occasion and necessity shall require (The necessity of these occasionall Assemblies being first remonstrated to his Majesty by humble supplication) As also that Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries, and Synodall Assemblies be constitute and observed according to the order of this Kirk, which act, with all and sundry the particular heads, clauses, and articles therein contained, the Estates now convened by his Majesties induction, warrant and authority foresaid, ratifies, approves and confirms in all points, in manner as the same propoerts; and gives thereunto the strength of a Law, and Act of Parliament, and ordaines execution to passe thereupon as effects; and rescindes, Casses, and annuls all acts and decreets of Parliament and Counsell formerly made, contrair and in prejudice of the said act, or any part thereof.

ACT II.

Statutarie appointing Parliaments to be holden once every three yeare.

THe Estates of Parliament presently convened by his Majesties speciall Authority; Considering that by reason of his Majesties ordinary residence forth of this his ancient & native Kingdome, the grievances and complaints of his good Subjects, cannot have so free and easie access to his Majesties cares, as the same may be conveniently represented to his Majesties Commissioners, and the Estates of
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Parliament from time to time, and how necessary it is that frequent Parliaments be kept within this Kingdome, for preservation of the purity of the true Religion now by Gods providence established within the same, and for the equall and impartiall administration of Justice to all his Majesties Subjects, and maintaining of peace and concord amongst them, by applying of the true and lawfull remedies to their grievances and complaints, and timous suppressing of all abuses and corruptions, which otherwayes from small beginnings will grow to great disorders, (which frequent Parliaments was continually observed in this Kingdome before his Majesties Father, of happy memory, went into *England*;) have statute and ordained that every three yeare once at least a full and free Parliament shall be holden (and oftner as his Majesty shall be pleased to call them) within the bounds of this Kingdome in the most commodious place and convenient time to bee thought upon, appointed and affixed by his Majesty or his Commisioner for the time, and Estates of Parliaments, before the ending and closing of every Parliament, and to be the last Act thereof. And the whole Estates wisheth that as it was their happinesse to have his Majesties presence at all Parliaments, while the King had his residence in this Kingdome, so that his Majesty would be pleased to be present at each Parliament, and they humbly supplicat his Majesty for that effect.

FINIS.

